



Zest

Company Profile - Feb 2026

Who we are



Zest

Forward Thinking Innovation

WHO WE ARE

Zest is the market leader in Italy for early-stage investments, startup acceleration, scale-up support, and Open Innovation Programs and one of the leading players in Europe dedicated to fostering growth in the Innovation Ecosystem.

It offers a wide range of high-tech and entrepreneurial value services, providing a complete 360-degree experience. Zest is the strategic partner for enabling Italian companies and institutions to transition to the 5.0 era, through Open Innovation & Corporate Venturing projects.



Future.
Faster

Zest

Forward Thinking Innovation

MISSION

Our mission is to **create sustainable value** by **fostering synergies** between **startups** and established **corporations**, thereby transforming innovative ideas into actionable business models



Future.
Faster

Zest

Forward Thinking Innovation

VISION

Empowering visionary entrepreneurs while facilitating corporate innovation: we aim to lead the way in early-stage investments and Open Innovation, driving growth and modernization in diverse industries.



Future.
Faster

Zest

innovation pioneers

+20 years market expertise

Founded in 2024 following the merger of **Digital Magics** and **LVenture Group**, two leading companies in Venture Capital, startup acceleration, and business consulting in innovation, Zest has created an integrated ecosystem with a European reach, becoming a strategic focal point for startups, corporates, and investors.



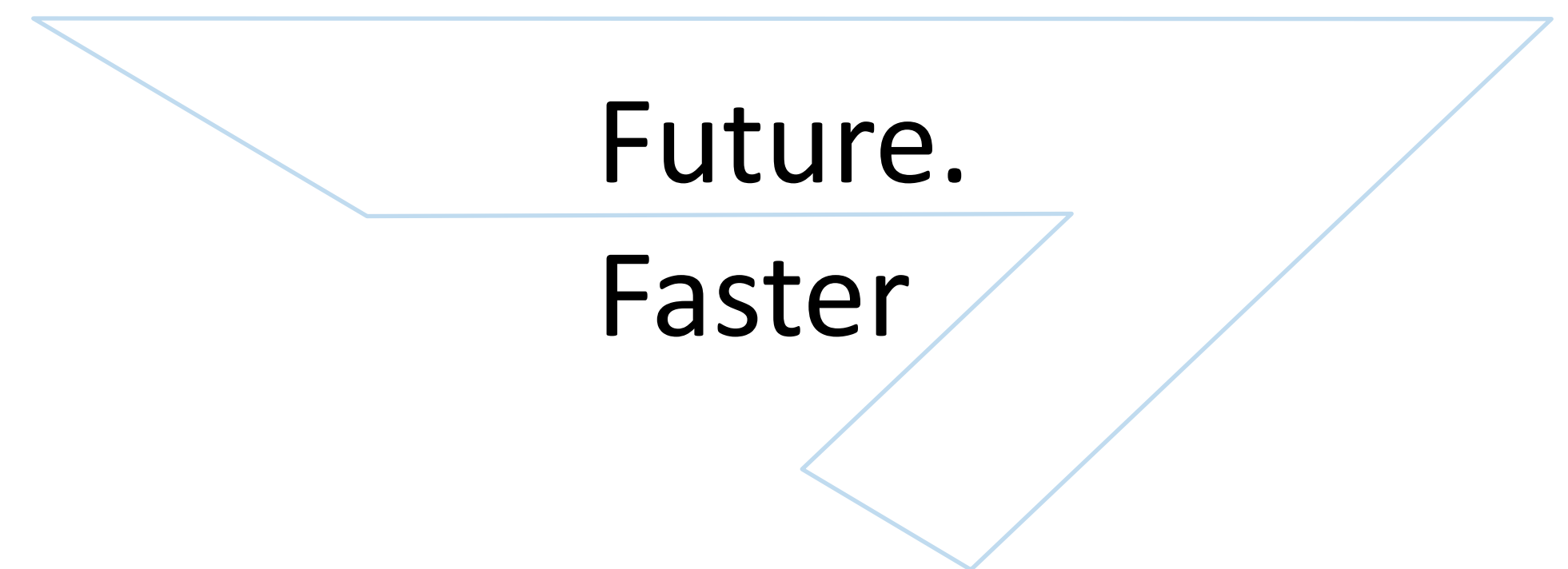
2003



2013



2024



Market Overview

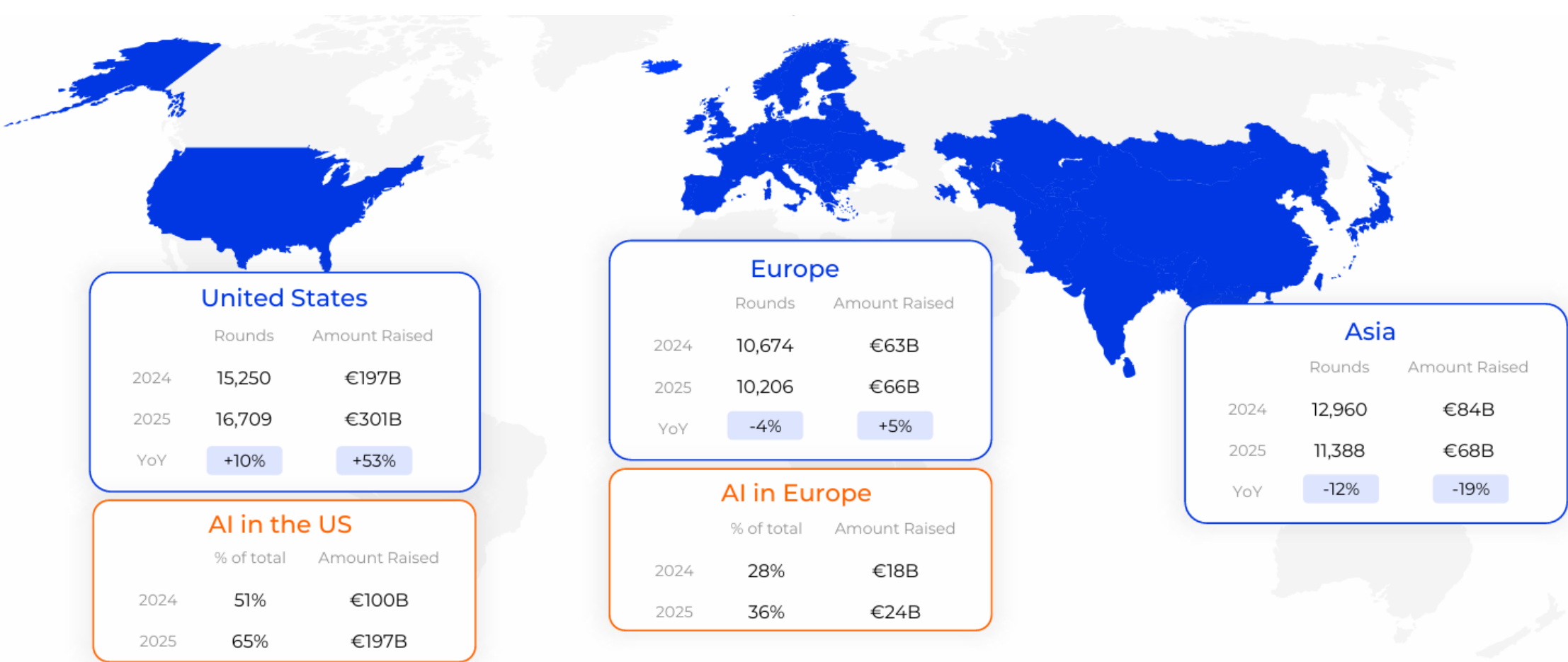


Italian Innovation Ecosystem

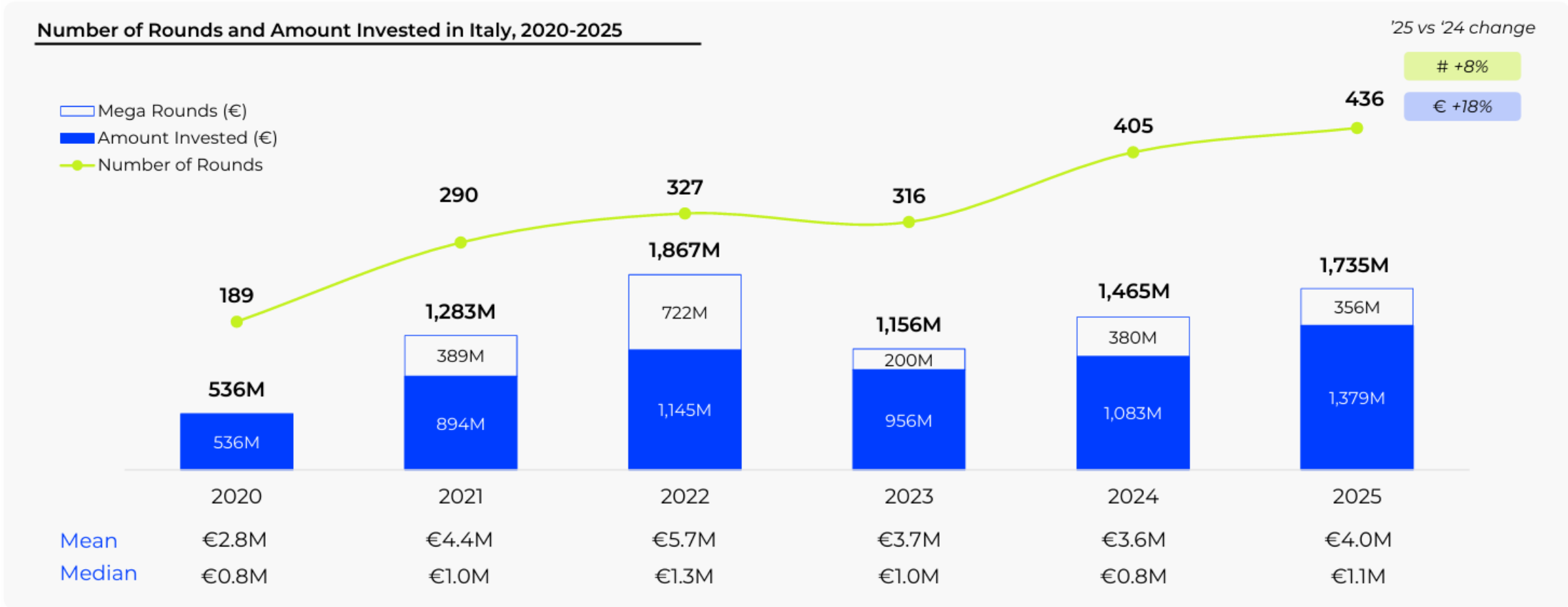
In 2025, the US venture capital market grew by 53%, driven entirely by artificial intelligence, which recorded a year-on-year increase of nearly €100 billion compared to 2024. In Europe, AI investments continued their growth trajectory, with an increase of approximately €6 billion on an annual basis, confirming solid and progressively consolidating interest in the sector.

2025 represents the year with the highest number of rounds ever recorded and surpasses 2024 in terms of total capital invested.

Pre-seed and Seed rounds accounted for 55% of deals closed in Q4-25, with a strong presence of Series A rounds as well..



Source: Pitchbook annual 2025 European Venture Report; Q4 2025 PitchBook-NVCA Venture Monitor; Q4 2025 Global VC First Look



Source: Growth Capital database

Italian Venture Capital Ecosystem

Top 10 Most Active Investors, by number of rounds participated in



ZEST is the #1 private investor by number of rounds in Italy

Business Model



Digital Made in Italy

ROME
MILAN
TURIN

The leading Italian
Innovation Player
with European
ambition





**Incubation
&
Acceleration**



**Ecosystem
Development**



**Third-Party
Venture Funds**



**Corporate
Venturing**



**Venture Capital
Investments**

Zest:
a unique
Innovation
partner



Feb2026

Company profile

Zest S.p.A.

One company, unique assets



**Pre-Seed & Seed
VC Investments**

235+ Portfolio Startups
2 Third-party Funds



**Corporate Venturing &
Innovation Enabler**

100+ Portfolio
Corporate &
Institution

Proprietary dealflow on innovation trends

	Database Startups	Startups Analysed	Applications received	Startups pre- selected	First Investments	Money Raised by the Portfolio	Corporate Partners	PoC Discussed or enabled	Follow-on Investments
 - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE -	3000	1.950	800	67	19	22M	11	12	4
 - CLEANTECH -	2.700	150	850	55	31	11M	6	7	8
 - FINTECH & INSURTECH -	7.100	3.100	1235	100	44	18M	16	23	8
 - IoT / 5G -	1.825	1.220	390	57	23	9M	12	6	7
 - PROPTech -	1.200	700	210	35	23	8M	10	10	5
 - TRAVELTECH -	2.100	78	726	35	21	5M	5	7	3

One Company, a whole Ecosystem

Corporates



Investors



IPO-Trade Sale



Series B-C-D



Series A



Seed/Pre-Series A:
500 k – 3 M



Pre-Seed: 100 k – 500 k



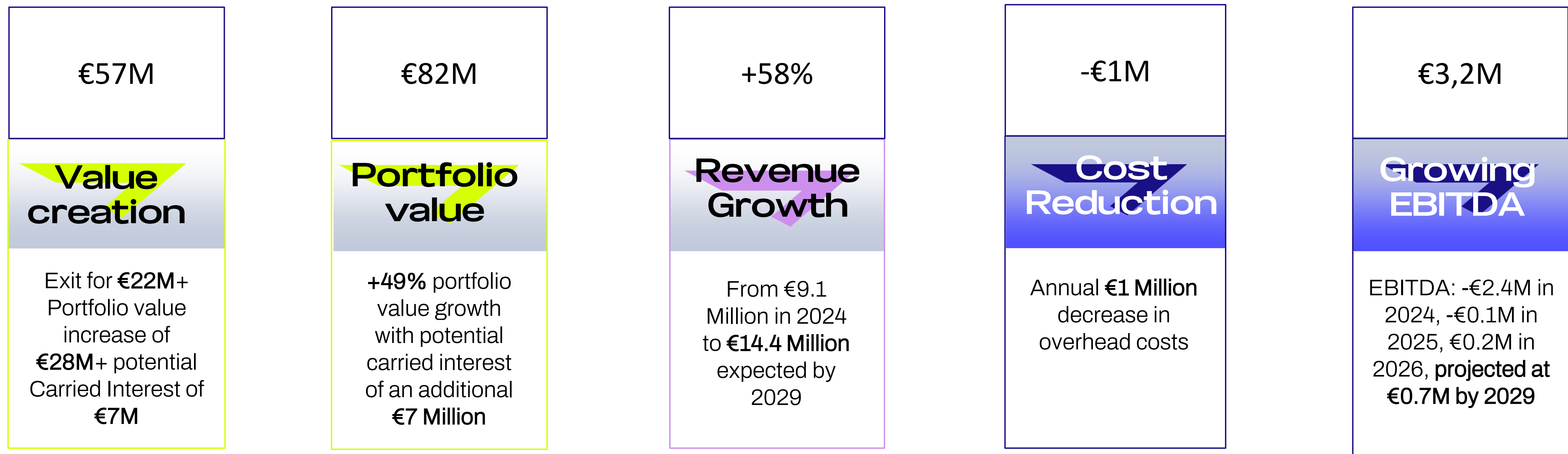
Activation



Industrial Plan 2025-2029



Group strategic goals 2025-2029



ENHANCE THE EXIT STRATEGY & PORTFOLIO VALUE

STRENGTHENING MARKET LEADERSHIP

IMPROVING EFFICIENCY



Our sustainable growth path



Corporate Reorganization

A streamlined structure ready to execute the strategic plan



Market Positioning

Strategic positioning to capture market opportunities



Financial Strength

A solid capital structure ensuring long-term stability



Value Creation

The plan will drive increased market capitalisation



Execution Excellence

A high caliber management team committed to deliver results

Key Numbers



Zest: KPI 2025

€50M
PORTFOLIO VALUE*

€488M
RAISED BY OUR
PORTFOLIO

235
PORTFOLIO
STARTUPS*

4K+
STARTUPS
ANALYSED

MARKET CAP:
~€26M

OVER 1,500
WITH AI
TECHNOLOGIES

+130
STARTUP
ACCELERATE

~80
PROGRAMMI DI
OPEN INNOVATION

9k mtq
ZEST HUB AT
ROMA TERMINI

100+
CORPORATE
PARTNER

OF WHICH 45
INVESTED BY
ZEST

**active

Zest Investments



Vertical Acceleration Programs

4 th BATCH RUNNING	FINTECH & INSURTECH 16 STARTUPS / YEAR Fin+Tech	Leading EU Accelerator
4 th BATCH RUNNING	IoT / 5G 8 STARTUPS / YEAR Magic Spectrum	First Mover in EU
3 rd BATCH CLOSED	PROPTech 8 STARTUPS / YEAR HabiSmart	First Mover in Italy
3 rd BATCH RUNNING	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE 8 STARTUPS / YEAR Magic Mind	First Mover in Italy
4 th BATCH CLSOED	CLEANTECH 10 STARTUPS / YEAR Zero	First Mover in Italy
3 rd BATCH RUNNING	TRAVELTECH 8 STARTUPS / YEAR Argo	First Mover in EU

10 CO-INVESTORS




CDP Venture Capital Sgr




























CDP Venture Capital Sgr


























CDP Venture Capital Sgr


Real Estate, since 1974




























CDP Venture Capital Sgr


















CDP Venture Capital Sgr











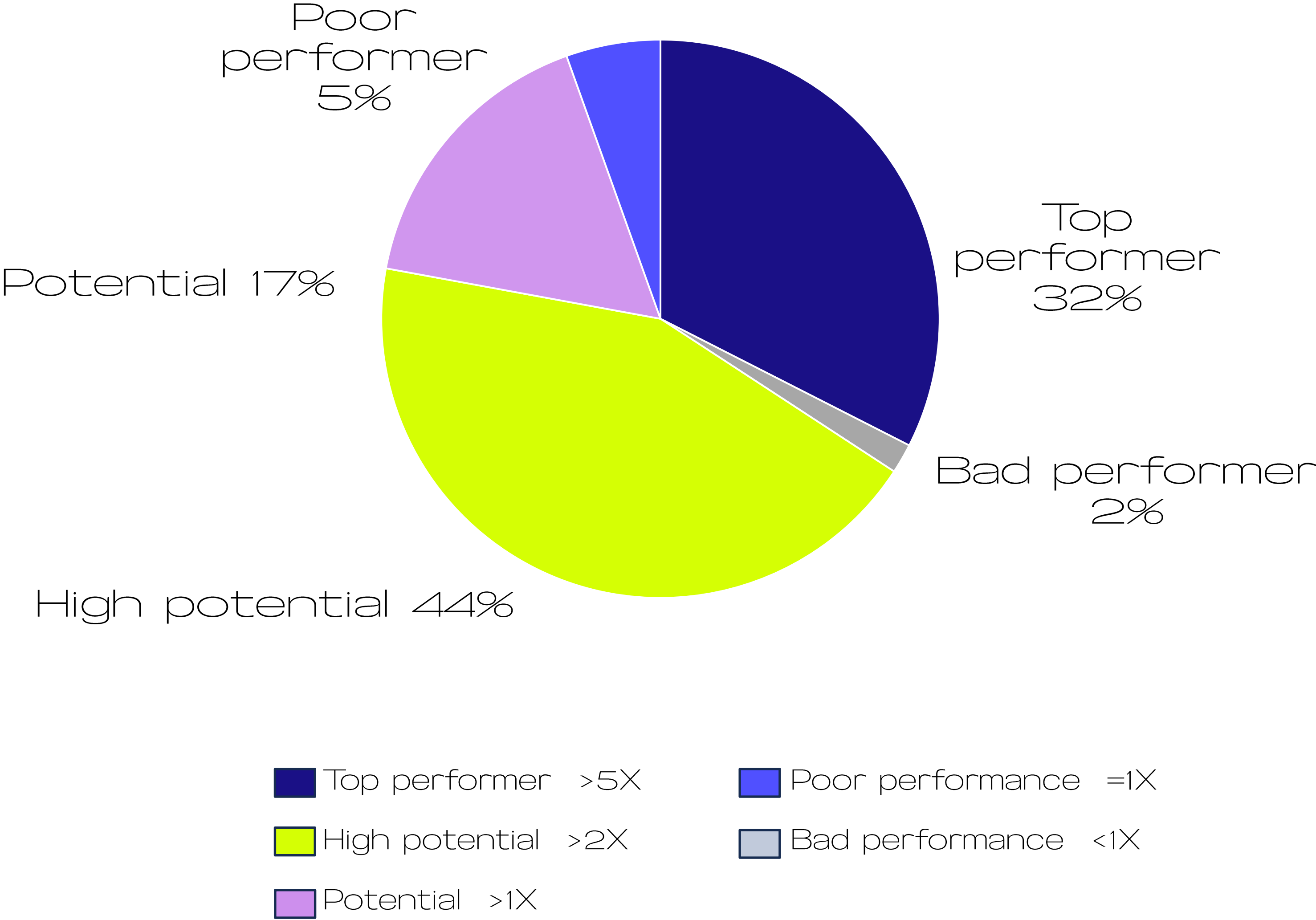




Portfolio: Fair Value/Investments

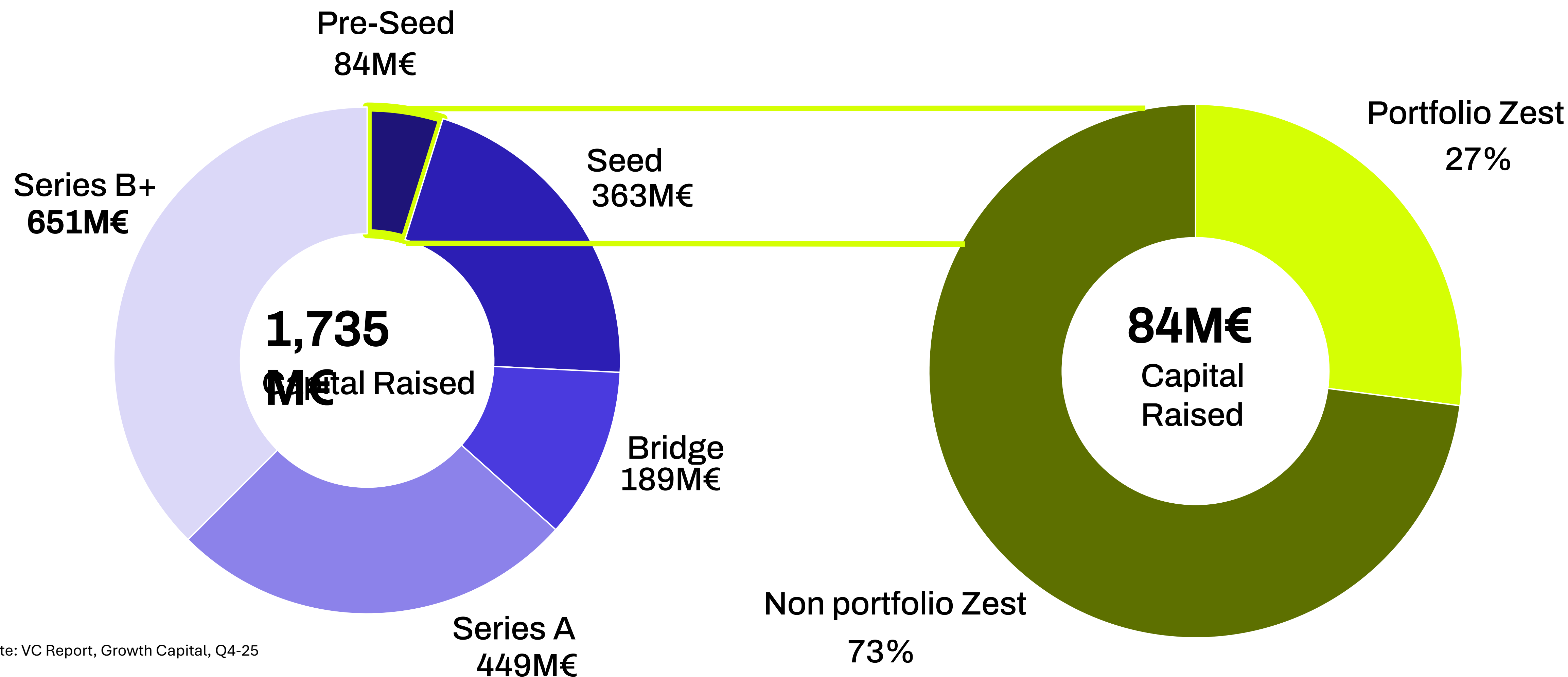
Z e s t S p A P O R T F O L I O

58% of the value of our portfolio is linked to startups with a high degree of maturity



Capital Raised Compared to the Market

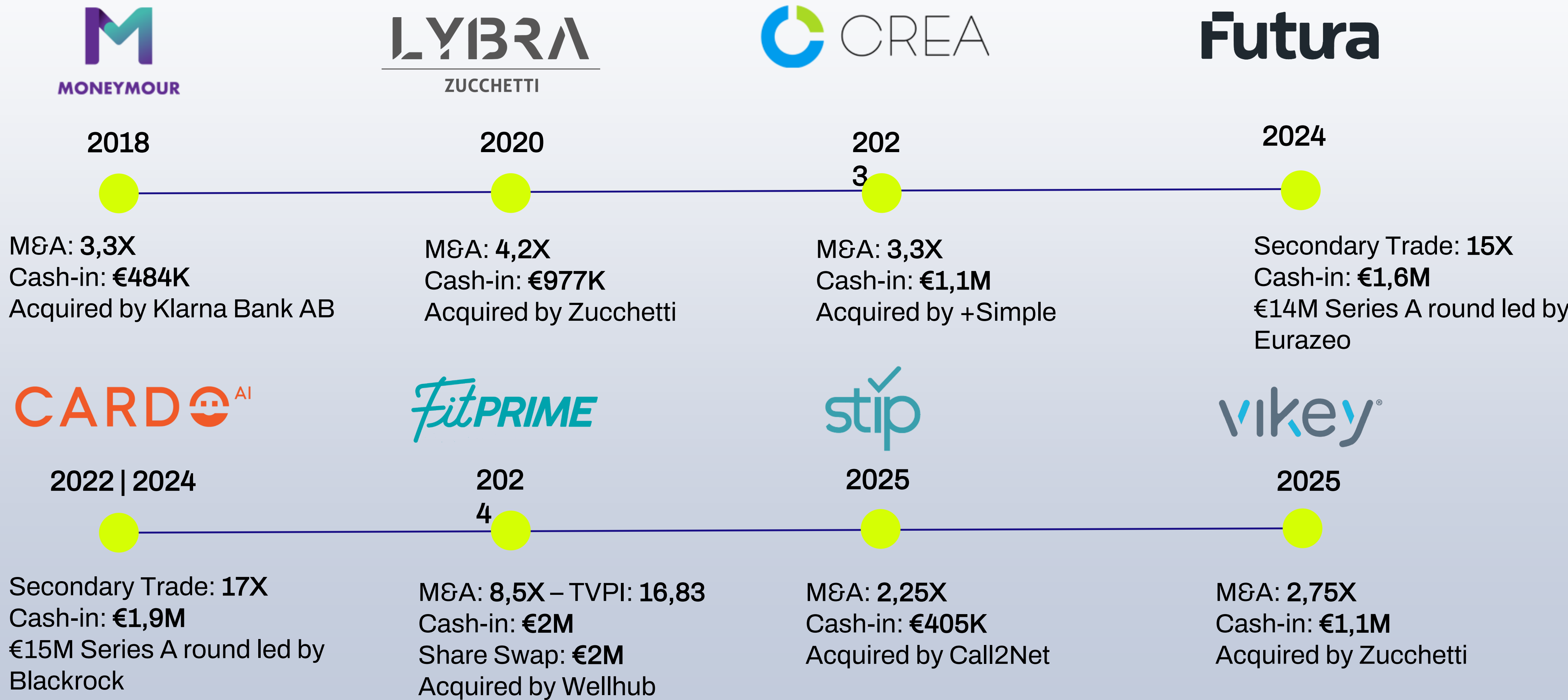
In terms of capital raised as well, the Zest portfolio catalyses more than 27% of the total capital invested in pre-seed rounds.



Fonte: VC Report, Growth Capital, Q4-25

EXITS - TRACK RECORD

Strong pipeline



THIRD-PARTY FUNDS

Investment Vehicles



Allocation : **€ 15 M**

15 investments

€6M invested

Shareholders:
Intesa Sanpaolo & Zest

Apside is a joint venture between Intesa Sanpaolo and Zest, with each party owning 50% of the company



Allocation : **€ 5 M**

2 investments

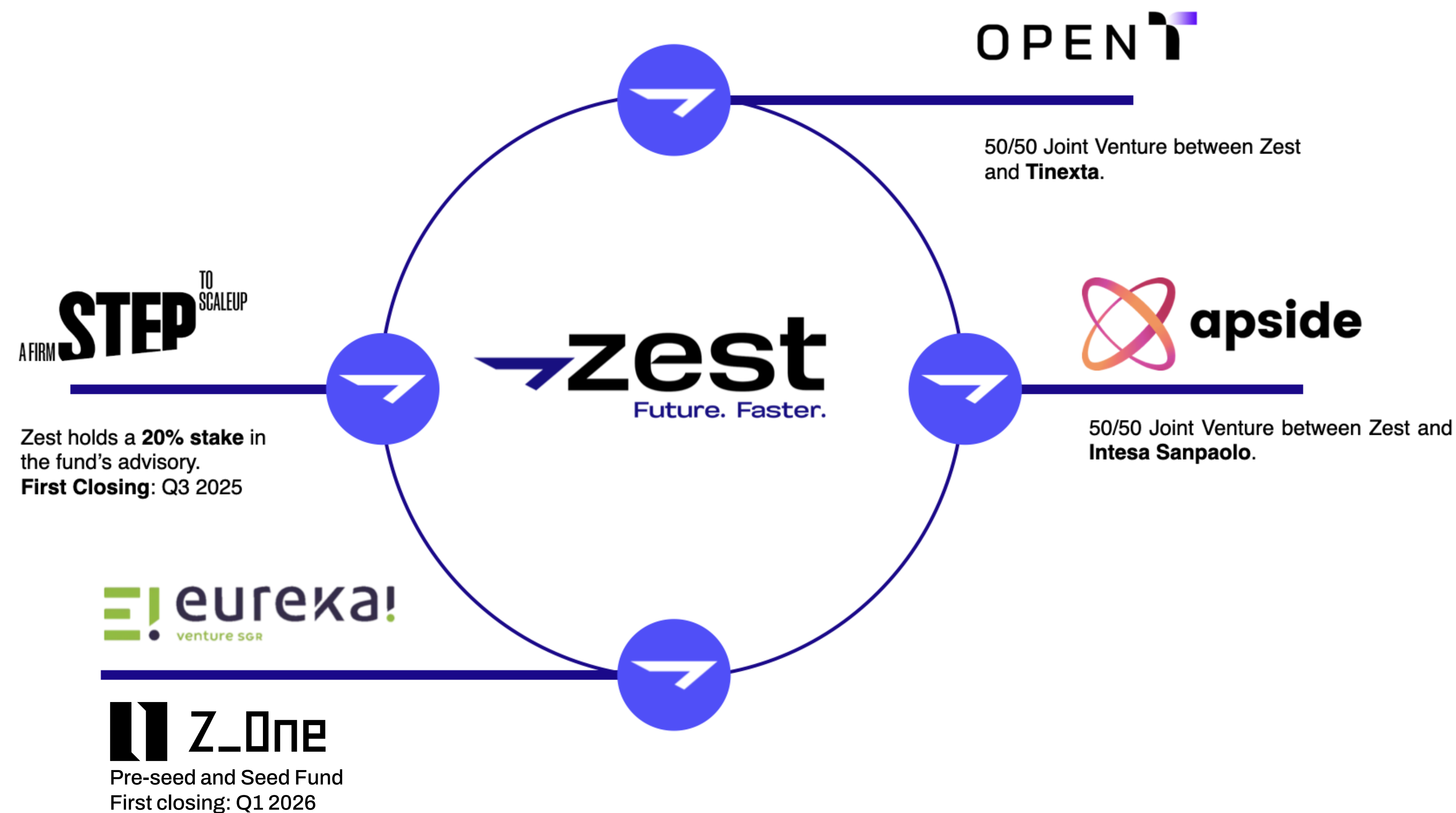
€0,5M invested

Shareholders:
Tinexta & Zest

Open T is a joint venture between Tinexta & Zest, with each party owning 50% of the company



Our Investment value chain



Zest Innovation



The Impact of Open Innovation Management

HIGH INNOVATION INTENSITY

Working with highly innovative and potentially disruptive technologies stimulates continuous growth and enhances market competitiveness

FASTER TIME-TO-MARKET

Reducing time-to-market through quicker development, testing, and validation of ideas and technologies

NEW REVENUE SOURCES

Discovering new revenue streams through exploring innovative business opportunities.

CUSTOMER FOCUS

Enhancing customer focus through the development of innovative solutions that better meet evolving needs and expectations

ACCESS TO EMERGING SKILLS

Gaining access to emerging skills (e.g., AI) that bring cutting-edge innovation and technology into the company

INNOVATION CULTURE

Fostering an agile, innovative and entrepreneurial culture within the company by embracing fast, iterative work methodologies



Zest Innovation Supports Corporates in Their Evolution

We collaborate with our clients to identify innovation areas that generate the greatest impact on the bottom line.

We set priorities and intervene with an entrepreneurial approach, working closely with our clients as a unified team, ensuring maximum execution

BEGINNER

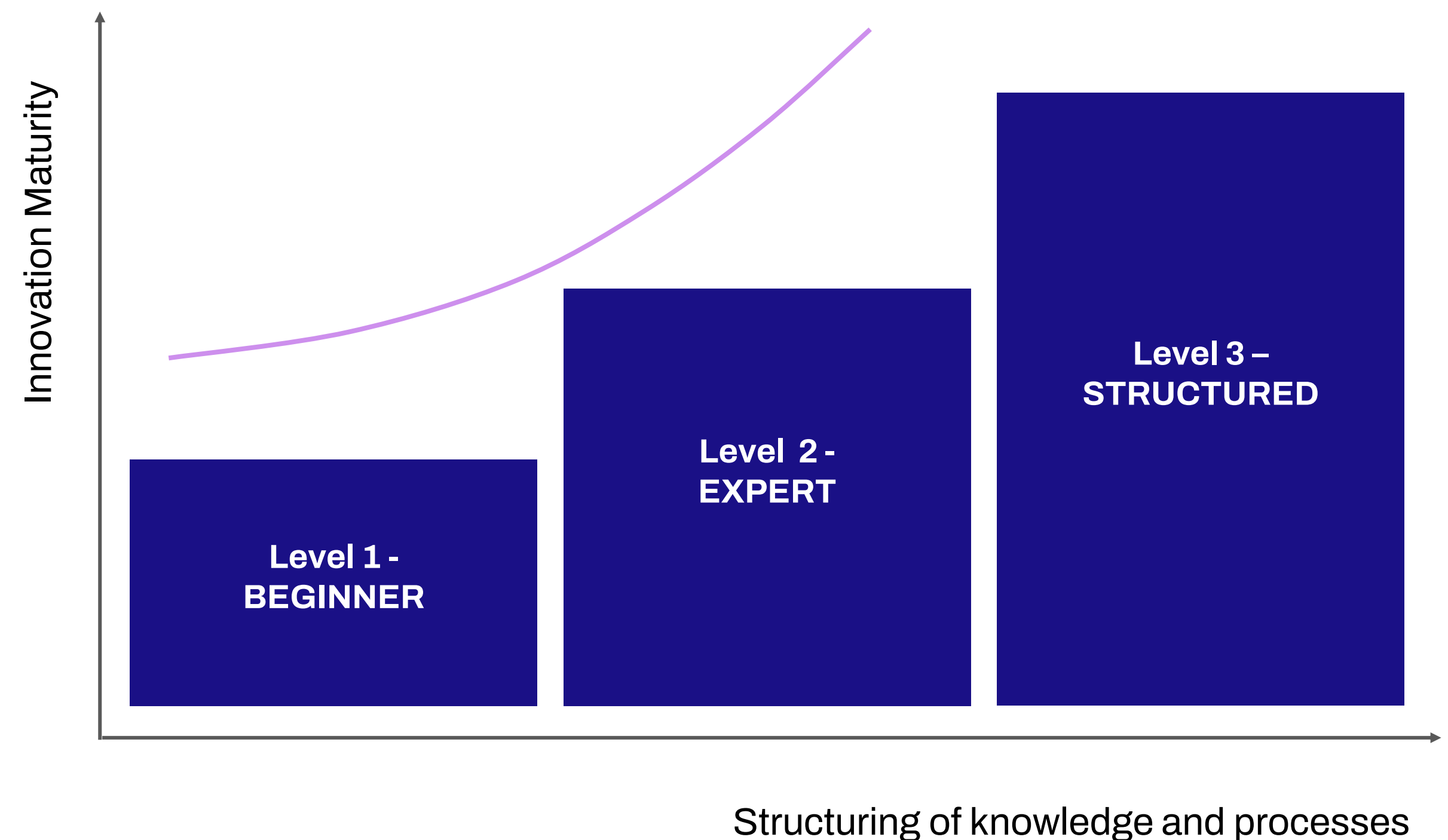
- Understand the value of innovation
- Identify initial opportunities
- Form a dedicated team
- Develop an innovation strategy

EXPERT

- Develop and improve processes for managing innovative ideas
- Set long-term vision goals
- Have a structured idea management system

STRUCTURED

- Manage innovation as a portfolio of initiatives
- Create partnerships with external organizations
- Monitor and measure innovation performance (strategic KPIs)



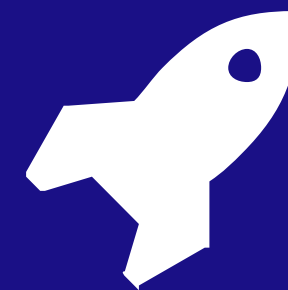
We Enable Innovation and Growth for Corporates

Zest Innovation is a key partner for corporate innovation. Our expertise enables us to help companies move quickly in a dynamic and evolving market. We transform ideas into tangible results with agility, precision, and strategic vision.



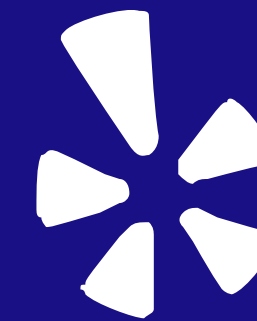
TRANSFORMATION & EMPOWERMENT

- Define strategies, governance, organization, processes and KPI's for innovation management
- Develop specific skills and spread a culture of innovation
- Encourage employees to propose and develop new ideas, enabling collaboration between departments



CORPORATE VENTURING

- Innovate through the engagement of startups
- Accelerate business and industrial experimentation through PoC driven programs
- Enable the creation of corporate spin-offs
- Define strategies and models for investing in startups (Corporate Venture Capital)



ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

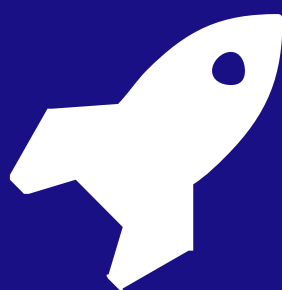
- Develop the innovation ecosystem, through partnerships with various actors (startups, VCs, Accelerators, Academy and TTOs)
- Develop incubation and acceleration programs dedicated to student's projects/teams, University spin-offs and startups
- Promote upskilling programs on innovation, digital and venture capital

We Enable Innovation and Growth for Corporates

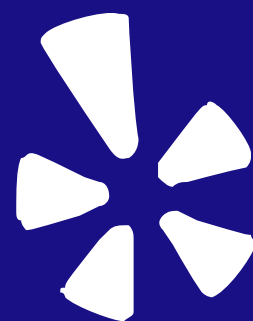
Zest Innovation supports **Corporates and Institutions across industries** by driving digital transformation, fostering collaboration with startups, and creating new ventures to accelerate growth and innovation.



TRANSFORMATION & EMPOWERMENT



CORPORATE VENTURING



ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

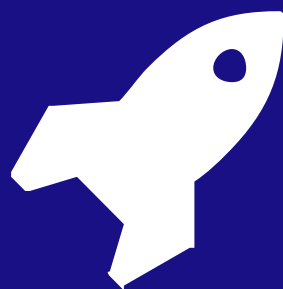


...with a Focus on Industries, Technologies, and Sustainability

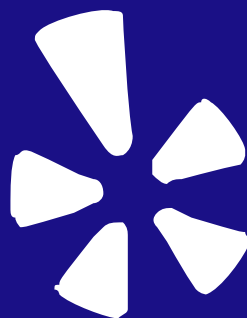
Zest Innovation focuses on empowering organizations by leveraging an approach built on **three pillars: cutting-edge AI, tailored industry insights, and sustainable practices**. This foundation enables us to drive impactful transformation, foster innovation through corporate venturing, and support ecosystem development for lasting growth.



TRANSFORMATION &
EMPOWERMENT



CORPORATE
VENTURING



ECOSYSTEM
DEVELOPMENT

AI-POWERED

Use of AI tools to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

INDUSTRY-FOCUSED

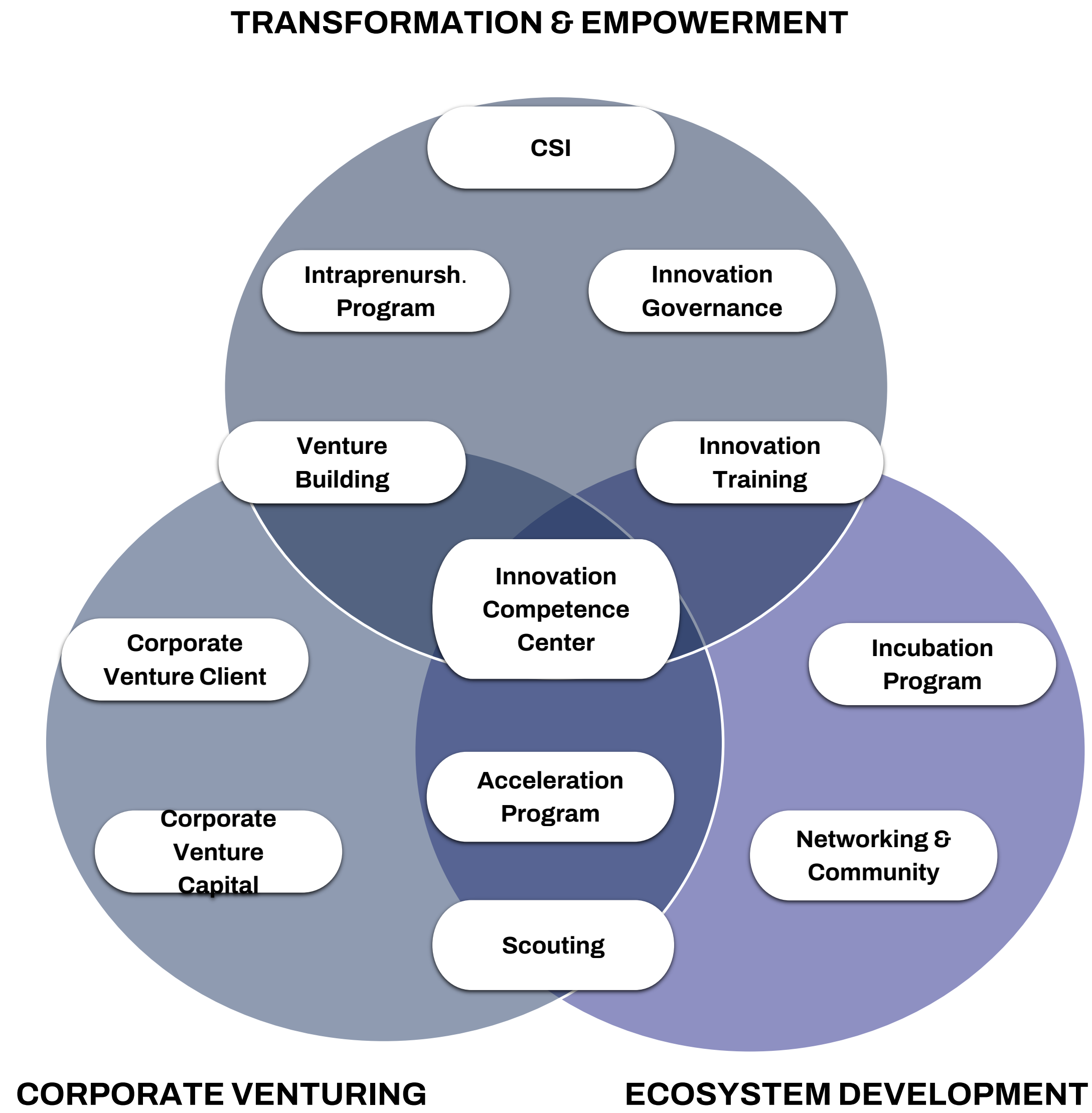
Tailored approach according to the company's sector and market.

SUSTAINABILITY-ORIENTED

Integrating environmentally and socially sustainable strategies.



Zest Innovation Offering



The Innovation Competence Center is a strategic and multifunctional platform where advanced resources and services converge and are available to all stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem for a specific sector. Each stakeholder finds within it high value-added resources and expertise that enable and accelerate processes of development, collaboration, and innovation.

The Innovation Competence Center becomes a strategic hub that accelerates innovation, creates connections between the academic and industry world, and supports the birth and growth of startups aligned with market trends.

METHODS • Incubation • Acceleration • Customer Scientific Investigation	TECH • Inn. Platforms • AI validation tools • AI Digital Twins • Talent LMS platform	VC ASSETS • Startup Deal Flow • Startup Portfoglio • Community of founders	SKILLS • Innovation Mng • Lean Startup • Customer Dev. • Coaching
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Success Stories (1/4)

TRANSFORMATION & EMPOWERMENT

Innovation Training



Training Program on multiple levels in Innovation and Design Thinking



Executive coaching for defining the innovation strategy

Corporate Intrapreneurship



Innovate
From call4Ideas to acceleration
216 applications, 10 projects selected for Boot Camp, 5 projects accelerated



5 editions from 2019 to date
More than 20 projects submitted and 2 validated in the marketplac



Innovation Governance



Consulting for the design of the innovation governance platform



Consulting for the design of the Innovation Business Unit: Governance and KPIs

Customer Scientific Investigation



Investigative survey conducted in the new farme



Customer scientific investigation for the launch of a new product

Success Stories (2/4)

CORPORATE VENTURING

Corporate Venturing - RFI

OPT4Rail

MISSION

Optimizing and automating the management of train circulation and operations in large rail facilities when critical events occur

THE PROGRAM AND THE ROLE OF ZEST

Identify and develop solutions to enable timeliness and optimal management of critical situations, reducing inefficiencies and disruptions

We conducted an activity divided into 2 macro-activities:

- International benchmark analysis
- Research and selection of innovative solutions to be integrated in the RFI context
- Experimentation (ongoing)

KEY NUMBERS

Benchmark on 11 national and international Operators
27 Startups in target
7 Startups shortlisted
2 PoCs activated



Corporate Accelerator – BIF Leonardo

Business Innovation Factory

MISSION

Accelerating business and validating startup technologies with solutions capable of expanding Leonardo's service offerings (Aerospace, Defense and Security)

THE PROGRAM AND THE ROLE OF ZEST

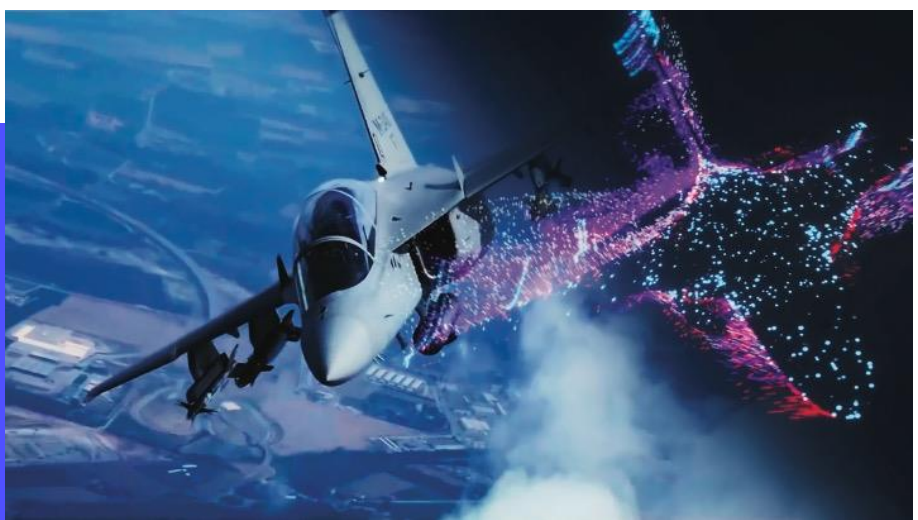
Select the solutions with the greatest potential for Leonardo's business, supporting their business growth through a tailor-made technology acceleration and validation path.

Research Verticals sectors:

- Autonomous System
- Servitization
- Cybersecurity & Networking
- Simulation & Gamification

KEY NUMBERS

2 Acceleration Batch
500+ applications
22 startups accelerated
8 PoCs activated
2 Follow-on investments



Success Stories (3/4)

CORPORATE VENTURING

Argo – Traveltech Accelerator

ARGO



MISSION

Establishment of a TravelTech technology hub in Venice that is a reference for the VC ecosystem and fosters the growth and development of new startups in the Tourism industry;

- Creation of ARGO Hub with a co-working space in Venice (Giudecca)
- Development of 3 accelerator programs over 3 years
- Investment and support for 30 startups
- Follow-ons in the best startups
- Building strategic and commercial relationships with the network's corporates

THE PROGRAM AND THE ROLE OF ZEST

Identify the best startup in traveltech field, investing and support them through the acceleration program.

KEY NUMBERS

- 726 Application received
- 78 Investment memos
- 15 First Investment
- 7+ POC with partners



Zero – Cleantech Accelerator

ZERO



MISSION

Creation of a Clean Tech Technology Hub to boost innovation with the mission of tackling the climate crisis by building a virtuous ecosystem capable of driving change toward carbon neutrality;

- Creation of Zero Hub with a co-working space in ROAD (Gazometro)
- Development of 3 accelerator programs over 3 year, 4 accelerator is ongoing
- Investment and support for 30 startups
- Follow-ons in the best startups
- Building strategic and commercial relationships with the network's corporates

THE PROGRAM AND THE ROLE OF ZEST

Identify the best startup in cleantech field, investing and support them through the acceleration program.

KEY NUMBERS

- 850 Application received
- 27 First Investment
- 8 POC with partners



Success Stories (4/4)

ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

Incubation Program

LUISS USF



Support the development of students' entrepreneurial mindset through a training and incubation program aimed at transferring the necessary know-how

6 editions
+300 students trained
+65 projects developed

Incubatore UniFi



Promoting entrepreneurial mindset among university researchers by helping to transfer ideas from research to market and enabling the birth of Unifi startups and spin-offs

Active collaboration since 2018
20 call4Ideas
194 projects admitted
69 spin-offs

Acceleration Program



Téchne is the Startup and Spin-off Acceleration Program promoted in the Rome Technopole to support the business growth of such realities

7 Startups - Spin-offs accelerated
+20 hours of training
+50 hours of mentorship



Widespread technology transfer center on emerging technologies in sectors identified as strategic for the area: smart mobility, industry 4.0 and innovative urban services.

3 acceleration batches
30 startups accelerated
8 PoCs activated

The Hub





THE HUB: THE INNOVATION «PLACE TO BE»



400+
Events held in 2024
in a thriving ecosystem

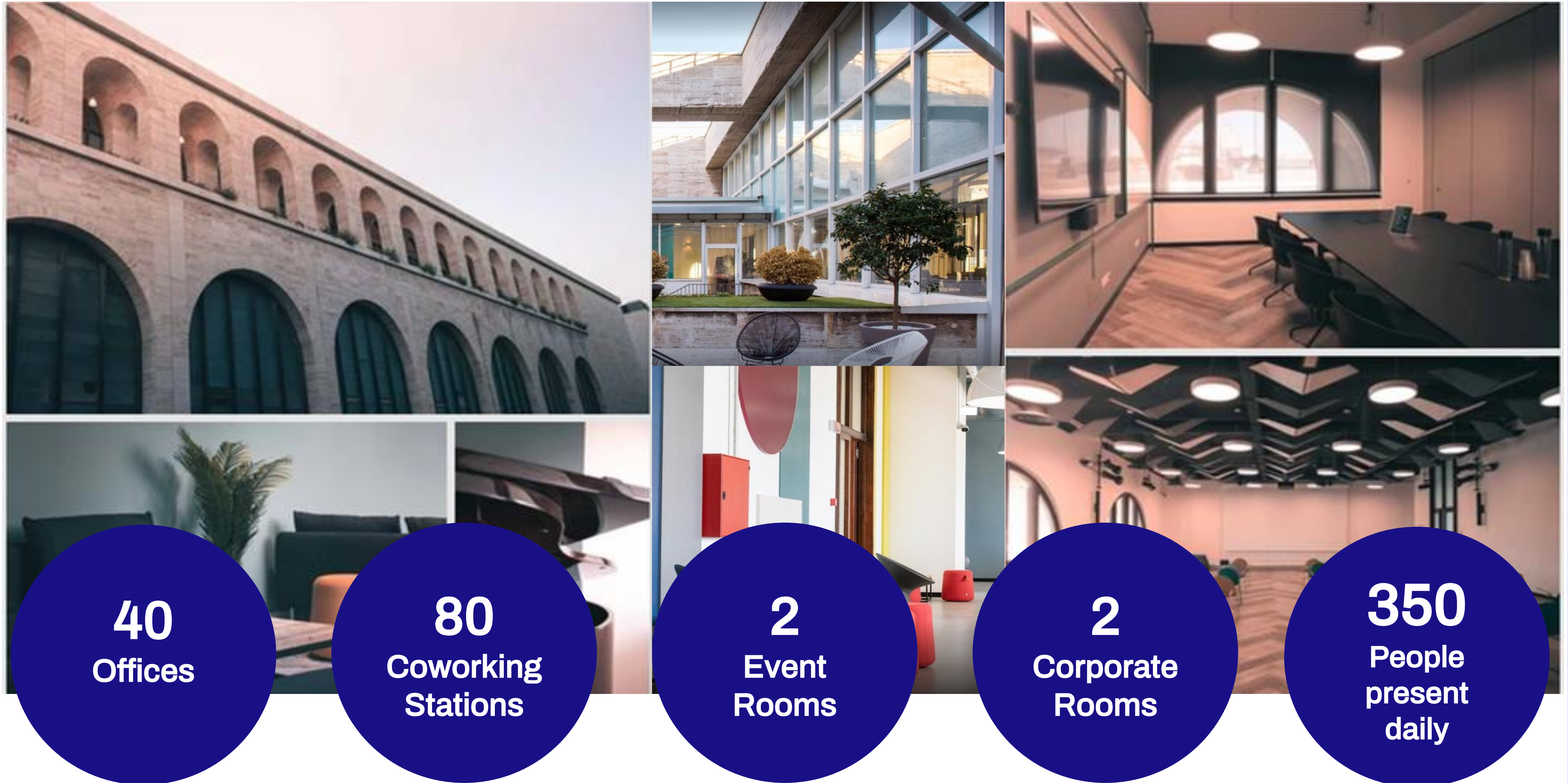
9.000
Sqm

50+
Startups &
Corporates
in residence

∞ Meta
Binario F

42 | ROMA
Luiss
42 Roma
LUISS

The Hub: the innovation «place to be»



ESG Impact



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNIVERSITIES

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMS X

ACCELERATION TRAINING

UNIVERSITY MENTORSHIP

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



54 STARTUPS INVESTMENTS IN 2024

€4M INVESTED IN STARTUPS IN 2024

150+ ACCELERATED STARTUPS IN 2024

Zest
7 SDGs
Impact



Feb2026

Company Profile

ESG Impact

5 GENDER EQUALITY



INCLUSION & DIVERSITY PROMOTION

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



+31 OPEN INNOVATION PROJECTS

+150 STARTUPS ACCELERATED IN 2024

7 ACCELERATION PROGRAMS

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



CLEANTECH ACCELERATOR

SUSTAINABILITY ACCELERATOR

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



54 STARTUPS INVESTMENTS IN 2024

€4M INVESTED IN STARTUPS IN 2024

150+ ACCELERATED STARTUPS IN 2024

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



CLEANTECH ACCERATOR

GREEN MOBILITY

+30 STARTUPS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LAUNCHED



Thank you

www.zestgroup.vc